Story Bids Turned Down

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — The woman who was to become Mrs. James Earl Ray today said a national publication offered her "more than $10,000" for her story, but she refused.

"No amount of money is worth taking a chance to ruin the image of James as I know it," said Anna Sandhu, a 32-year-old divorcee and free-lance artist from Knoxville. A number of other national publications have also tried to buy the story of her love affair with Dr. Martin Luther King's convicted assassin, she said Thursday .

The two were to be married Friday afternoon in a second-floor maximum security visitor's center at Brushy Mountain State Prison, where Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for King's murder. The Rev. James Lawson, described as a close associate of King, will officiate.

The couple will not be allowed conjugal visits, which Miss Sandhu described as "terrible.

"But I think the main thing in marriage is the emotional support and shelter two people give each other," the attractive blonde said.

Lawson, now a Los Angeles minister, was instrumen- ease tensions caused by a garbage strike. It was in Memphis that King was fatally wounded by a sniper's bullet.

"We've both endured a lot of hardship and know what it's like not to have anyone," Miss Sandhu said of the man she met last year at a court hearing. "ow we're going to fill an empty spot in our lives."

Ray, 50, has never been married.

After the 4 p.m. private ceremony, the newlyweds will be allowed a short visit in the company of prison guards. Miss Sandhu said she will be allowed to visit Ray twice weekly, each vi to last four hours.

She said she plans to r turn to Knoxville after t wedding the continue pai ing and selling her work.

ANNA SANDHU
Ray's Fiancee

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